

Plans proceed for license renewal, power increase

PPL Susquehanna is continuing with its plans to submit two applications to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in upcoming months to expand the plant capabilities well into the future.

In one of the applications, Susquehanna will request permission to increase power levels by 14 percent. The ability to get more power from an existing plant is a cost-effective way to meet the increasing demand for electricity. And, this additional generation would not result in emissions of carbon dioxide, which scientists suspect are contributing to changes in the Earth's climate.

The application consists of hundreds of pages of safety and environmental analyses that show the plant is capable of operating safely at the increased power levels.

Later this year, Susquehanna will request a renewal of its operating license for an additional 20 years beyond its original 40-year license.

A renewed license would allow the plant an opportunity to continue generating electricity and providing the economic benefits for neighboring communities through jobs, tax revenue and local purchases for goods and services.



NRC says plant operated safely in 2005

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has determined that PPL Susquehanna operated safely in 2005 and met expectations for preserving public health and safety.

The assessment is based on inspections and evaluations the NRC conducted during 2005. NRC representatives presented their assessment results at a public meeting at the Susquehanna Energy Information Center in April.

The NRC found only a few issues of very low safety significance during its many inspections and assessment activities. Because of the overall safe operation of the plant, the NRC plans to conduct only its standard inspections at Susquehanna through September 2007.

"The NRC shares valuable insights gathered from other plants that help us refine our programs and processes," said Rocky Sgarro, manager-Nuclear Regulatory Affairs for PPL.



PPL's commitment to the community is reflected in the contribution made by employees and the company to the Berwick Area United Way 2006 campaign. PPL's contribution of \$131,660 represented 35 percent of the total amount raised. PPL's Margy Rochester, standing, presents the contribution to Jennifer Dunkelberger, Berwick Area United Way executive director.



Effective emergency planning protects the public

An effective emergency plan is important for protecting public safety. The plan for PPL Susquehanna has been developed and tested in cooperation with municipal, county and state governments.

Our plan is based on four levels of emergencies established by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The levels define the type of response appropriate for emergency planning agencies, and for you.

During an “unusual event” or “alert,” no public action is required.

During a “site area emergency” or “general emergency,” you may need to take action for your safety. The sirens PPL has put up throughout the area will let you know that TV and radio stations are broadcasting official information and instructions from emergency management agencies.

For more information, check the blue pages of your local phone book.



Siren tests

We conduct frequent tests of the sirens around Susquehanna. Once every three months, we sound sirens briefly in each of three areas. The schedule for upcoming sound tests:

- Wilkes-Barre area, week of July 3.
- Bloomsburg area, week of July 31.
- Hazleton area, week of Sept. 11.

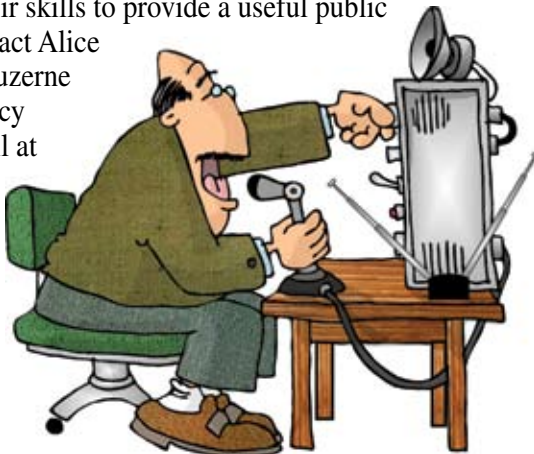
Calling amateur radio operators

Amateur radio operators provide needed support to local emergency management centers. County and municipal Emergency Operation Centers rely on volunteer radio operators to assist with communications.

Any amateur radio operators in the area who would like to help by using their skills to provide a useful public service may contact Alice

Rodgers at the Luzerne County Emergency Agency by e-mail at ka3kmh@arrl.net

or by phone at 570-820-4400 or 1-800-821-3715.



Emergency drill scheduled for fall

Every nuclear power plant must have an effective emergency plan that informs and protects people who live near the plant.

This September, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Federal Emergency Management Agency will evaluate the emergency plan for Susquehanna. The agencies do this every two years.

The drill will involve hundreds of PPL employees, government workers and local volunteers. NRC and FEMA officials will scrutinize actions taken by PPL and municipal, county and state emergency agencies in response to a mock nuclear emergency.

We practice emergency response at Susquehanna several times a year so people at the plant and emergency responders in the community know what they should do if the need ever arises.

A look back at the March 1 alert

On the night of March 1, a fire suppression system discharged halon gas in a building in the non-nuclear part of the Susquehanna plant.

Susquehanna has a detailed set of emergency action levels. Any time an event occurs at the plant that meets the emergency action criteria, PPL activates the emergency plan. When the fire suppression system went off, plant operators consulted the emergency action levels and declared an alert.

An alert requires no public action, but PPL did notify the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, state and local emergency agencies, elected officials and the news media to keep people informed about what was happening.

In general, emergency responders did what they were supposed to do, and the event never put plant or public

safety in jeopardy. When the building was cleared of halon a few hours later and employees could safely re-enter, the alert ended.

Following the alert, it came to light that municipal officials had not yet received the latest updated emergency action level booklets from PPL. The updated booklets had four new pages as a result of security changes the NRC required us to make, which resulted in a renumbering of subsequent pages.

PPL apologized to municipalities for the delay in delivering new booklets and got them out within days of the alert. Not having updated booklets caused some confusion, but municipalities take actions based on the emergency level (in this case, an alert), rather than the triggering event.

No groundwater tritium issues at Susquehanna

Extensive monitoring of groundwater and surface water at PPL Susquehanna, which began even before the plant started generating electricity, has shown no issues with tritium locally.

Tritium is a radioactive form of hydrogen that occurs naturally in very small quantities and is a byproduct of nuclear power generation.

Elevated levels of tritium have been found in groundwater near some nuclear power plants. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has created a task force to examine the issue of tritium leaks from power plants.

In more than 25 years of sampling as part of PPL Susquehanna's Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program, there have been no increases in groundwater tritium above naturally occurring levels. PPL samples groundwater four times a year and reports the results annually.

Refueled, tuned up and ready for a long run

Susquehanna Unit 1 completed a refueling and maintenance outage in April. During the outage, workers replaced about 40 percent of the uranium fuel in the Unit 1 reactor and completed thousands of inspections, tests and maintenance jobs. One of the key jobs was an overhaul of the generator to enhance reliability.

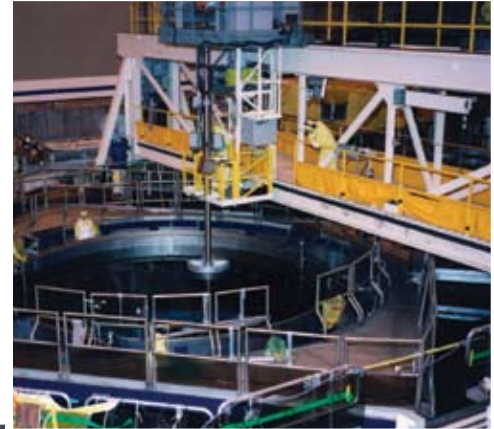
To help complete all of these activities safely, PPL Susquehanna brought in more than 1,500 additional people, including a number of local workers.

Outage workers who come from a distance spend a significant amount of money locally for food, lodging and other goods and services. And, Susquehanna purchases supplies and services from local businesses.

Including wages, materials and supplies, the estimated economic impact of the outage on the local economy is more than \$30 million.

Security Officer John Remphrey monitors everyone entering the reactor building.

Workers replace fuel in the Unit 1 reactor (top right). PPL also overhauled the electrical generator (bottom right).





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Susquehanna Riverlands Environmental Preserve

Not Your Everyday Nature Program
June 29, July 27, Aug. 31 and
Sept. 28, 7 p.m.
Presented by: Susquehanna River
Institute

The last Thursday of each month is a night for serious study of environmental topics at the Susquehanna Riverlands. Area experts will deliver talks and answer questions on environmental topics at a more in-depth and scientific level than our normal programming. For teachers, Act 48 hours will be available.

Pennsylvania Wildlife July 10-15

A six-day, four-credit course will combine classroom and field work to explore the history, heritage, ecology and conservation of Pennsylvania Wildlife. The class will include early morning and late evening field trips. Advance registration is required. To register, contact Dr. Elizabeth Lott, graduate program director, King's College, at eslott@kings.edu, or call 570-208-5991.

It's a Stream Bug's Life July 22, 1:30 p.m.

Aquatic insects are an important link in the food chain of water environments. Learn about these fascinating creatures and gain a greater appreciation of life along Pennsylvania's streams. The program is free.

We're Listening

If you would like to know more about any of the subjects covered in this issue, or if you have questions or comments about the plant, please call us at the Susquehanna Special Office, 570-759-2281 or 570-542-2131.

Inside Susquehanna is published three times a year by PPL Susquehanna. For past issues, please visit our Web site at www.pplweb.com/seic.